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1-30-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Clarkson *et al.*

Serial No. 09/431,566

Filed: 10/29/1999

For: **METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR BUILDING AND DISTRIBUTING AUDIO PACKAGES**

Examiner: Pham, Hung Q.

Art Unit: 2172

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING RCE

In response to the Office Action mailed 03 October 2002, Applicant herein files a Request for Continued Examination along with the present preliminary amendment. Applicant also requests a one-month extension of time for responding to this Office Action. Enclosed is a credit card payment form in the amount of \$860.00 to pay the fees associated with this Request for Continued Examination and the extension of time. If any additional fees are required in association with this response, the Director is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account 50-1732, and consider this a petition therefor.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-11, 13-17, 22-30 and 32-46, without prejudice.

Please enter new claims 47-70 as follows:

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--47. A system for use in a telecommunications network for providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of the telecommunications network, said system comprising:

- a centralized database comprising a plurality of audio segments, said audio segments comprising announcements to be played to the end user of the telecommunications network;
- an audio package builder/export tool adapted to:
 - access the centralized database;
 - construct an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;
 - construct an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where in the audio package an audio segment may be located; and
 - export the audio package to the gateway.